

INFORMATION REPORT

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the structural change in the administration of Eastern Germany was effected on the basis of studies made by a commission in the U.S.S.R. that this change, which was directly connected with the realization of socialism in Eastern Germany, did not represent a reform or reorganization, but a real political revolution.

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the term "local administrative agencies" was no longer to be used in press reports and that this term was to be replaced by the designation of "local organs of the state executive". The former Land governments had hampered the activities of more positive elements and had been nothing but costly letter carriers. In this connection, he referred to the Land executive boards of the RO (trade organization) enterprises, which had maintained staffs of 5,000 persons at a cost of 84 million eastmarks annually.

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the newly established Bezirksrat (District Council) is composed of the chairman, the secretary, five deputy chairmen and a number of councillors, its members totaling 12 to 15 men. The chairman and the secretary were assigned political missions, while the other members of the council were technical experts, who would be employed in accordance with the economic structure of the Bezirk concerned. The councillors were responsible to the Bezirkstag (district representation) and the East German government.

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the secretary of the council was its political key figure. His mission was to prepare the meetings of the Council and to define the duties of the permanent commissions. Measures suggested by these commissions were to be submitted to the Bezirkstag in the form of motions. The chairman of the Council was responsible for matters of training, youth problems, and church affairs. The deputy chairmen controlled two or three departments, the chiefs of which would be proposed by the various ministries concerned, but had to be approved by the Bezirkstag. The chiefs of the individual

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departments would receive their directives from the ministries concerned, but they would also be responsible to the Bezirkstag.

5. The Bezirkstag was the supreme administrative organ of the Bezirk. an honorary chairman had to be elected for each session of the Bezirkstag. The Bezirkstag would be supported in its work by permanent commissions composed of members of the Bezirkstag and representatives directly elected by the population. This set-up would establish close ties between the state administration and the population, just as in the U.S.S.R. None of the members of these permanent commissions would be paid for their work. All the councillors of the Bezirk would be members of the Bezirkstag. Those members of the Bezirkstag who were not councillors, would have to serve in the permanent commissions on an honorary basis.

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